

Middlesex/Union Counties ALB Infestation

On June 22, twelve USDA-Forest Service Smokejumpers, from Montana, Washington, Wyoming, Idaho and Oregon, arrived in the Middlesex/Union Counties ALB Quarantine area to conduct survey efforts for the ALB. The Smokejumpers began climbing on Friday, June 24. Current media interest in this event include: The Chicago Tribune; Associated Press; Newsday, New York; WCBS-TV New York; 1010 WINS News Radio New York; News-12, New Jersey's Cable News Network; The Star Ledger; and Home News Tribune, covering Middlesex and Union Counties in New Jersey.

As of June 23, 7,236 trees have been removed from the Middlesex/Union ALB quarantine area. Of those, 517 were infested host trees and 6,719 were high-risk exposed host trees. Crews continue removing trees this week in areas of Carteret, Linden and Rahway. Currently, 28 program personnel from USDA APHIS PPQ, NJDA, NJ Forest Service are performing survey, control and regulatory activities. To date 19,294 host trees have been surveyed.

As of June 22, 10,733 trees have been treated in the Middlesex/Union Counties ALB quarantine area: 1,854 trees were treated in Carteret by soil injection and 2,850 by trunk injection; 1,547 trees were treated in Rahway by soil injection; 498 trees were treated in Linden by soil injection; and 3,984 trees were treated in Woodbridge by truck injection. Approximately 20,000 trees will be treated with the insecticide imidacloprid by the time treatment is completed.

On June 16, AMTRAK safety employees trained 20 personnel from USDA-APHIS, New Jersey Department of Agriculture, and TruGreen ChemLawn contractor employees, about safety and security while working on AMTRAK property. The training was conducted because program personnel needed to access the AMTRAK property in Rahway and Linden to conduct survey and tree treatments. Two of the biggest dangers covered in the training were Moving Trains and Electric Power Lines.

Jersey City/Hoboken ALB Infestation

Five program personnel along with five temporary summer hire employees continue to perform survey and regulatory activities in the Jersey City/Hoboken ALB quarantine area. To date, 1,879 host trees have been surveyed with no signs of ALB infestations.

A Fond Farewell

This marks the last of our ALB weekly updates that will benefit from the input of USDA-APHIS public affairs specialist John Dodd, who has accepted a position teaching public affairs at the U.S. Department of Defense Information School. John has been an invaluable asset to the New Jersey ALB cooperative effort, ensuring smooth interaction among all the various partners in the program and serving as a clearinghouse of information on all ALB efforts nationwide. The New Jersey Department of Agriculture will miss John and wishes him all the best in his new position.